

THE CHINA MAIL.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, 22ND NOVEMBER, 1866.

BIRTHS.

On the 21st September, at Clay hill, Walthamstow, Mrs. W. H. Andrews, of a son, named John, at 28, Maiden-lane, West, the wife of a Plumber, Esq. of a son.

DEATHS.

On the 6th October, at 6, James street, Peterhead, N.B., Mr. James Cox, of a son, named John, at 28, Maiden-lane, West, the wife of a Plumber, Esq. of a son.

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Judgment was delivered on the 13th instant in the case of the *Williamette* v. *Plymouth Rock*, to the following effect. The defendants to pay the libellants the sum of \$662 for loss of the services of their vessel, and the expenses of repairs, with costs of the action.

The shooting at the late volunteer rifle meeting was good, shewing a great improvement on the last meeting; when the Challenge Cup, for example, was won by 25 points, against 38 this year.

From Foochow we learn that the prefect and Minister have lately returned from Shanghai a small village in the Woga channel where they have been for the last 10 days or so quelling a rather formidable riot which had arisen in that district. A force of 3,000 men was ordered to attend the officers and with their help 25 of the ringleaders were arrested, 7 of whom were executed on the spot. Cholera has appeared at Pagoda Anchorage. Three cases have occurred on board the *J. C. Moore*, one of which has resulted in death. One in recovery and the other is still in progress. It is to be hoped that these cases are merely sporadic, and there is little prospect of any extensive epidemic of the disease at the present season.

From Hankow we learn that Mr. Commissioner Giquel has left the Imperial Maritime Customs' employ in consequence of some disagreement with Mr. Hart respecting certain projects, which he had in view—presumably something connected with the organization of the Chinese contingents to which he has of late given much attention.

HONGKONG.

Several matters of interest have occurred during the past week, the most important of which is the discovery of a real or supposed plot to massacre the Europeans and loot the foreign houses on the island. We must refer our readers to an article in another column for fuller particulars, but briefly a letter was intercepted containing a proposal on the part of some worthless living some thirty miles in land to join an expedition—the united forces of which would amount to 3,000 men, in an attack upon the island. Under the circumstances (for there is a strong suspicion that the letter is after all a forgery) we think such an event in the highest degree improbable, but the authorities have very wisely taken measures to guard against such a contingency, the troops being held ready for immediate service, even the hospital patients having been supplied with arms.

Next in importance to the "conspiracy" is the fact of a strongly worded petition (published in another column) having been presented to the Governor by the Chinese against certain provisions in the new ordinances.

The tone of the petition will probably strike our readers as fairly argumentative, and as a careful and exhaustive statement of native objections to the ordinances it reflects credit on both the Chinese and foreign gentlemen who have been concerned in drawing it up. The memorandum of His Excellency thereon, which we subjoin below, must however, command the approval not only of the European population but of the more intelligent amongst the natives. He boldly grapples the plea of "hardship," which they urge as to complying with the ordinances, and points out that the inconveniences they anticipate are the unavoidable results of the peculiar habits of the Chinese themselves. In one particular only should we wish to see a modification of His Excellency's views, viz. on the subject of the fees imposed upon market boats and the time they are required to delay in the harbour. Doubtless these points will be taken into consideration on the ordinances becoming law.

In connexion with the remarks of the petitioners on the Stamp Act it may be interesting to state that at Singapore where a similar Act has for some time been in operation, hardly one if any case is on record of the Singaporean Chinese having been summoned for an evasion of its provisions. We must reserve any further comment for another issue.

Sickness amongst the troops seems to be on the increase. We hear that the 20th Regiment has over 120 men now in hospital, chiefly fever cases. It is in contemplation to apply to the naval authorities for permission to send military patients to the *Medley* Hospital Ship, should their number overstep the ordinary hospital accommodation.

Another of the *Cassini* pirates has been arrested and fully identified and the trial of Leong Ayueh, the *Latona* pirate, is fixed for Friday next the 23rd instant. We understand that some fresh confirmatory evidence of his identity will be forthcoming.

A Move (says one of our contemporaries) will shortly take place in official circles, one of the oldest and most deserving of the public servants of the Colony, being about, we understand, to retire shortly on the pension he has well deserved. It would be premature to mention the name

of the official referred to, or to discuss the changes consequent on his retirement, but many of our readers will find no difficulty in putting their fingers on the right man.

The *Avon*, a vessel sailing under the Russian flag, was arrested by the Naval and Police authorities a few days since and the Captain was charged with unlawfully detaining coolies on board. The action taken in this court appears to have been somewhat precipitate, but there are by the Captain's own admission kidnapped coolies on board (some kidnapped, it is stated, in Hongkong) and though he may be perfectly innocent of any illegal proceedings it is to be hoped that some means will be found of bringing home the crime of kidnapping to the guilty parties. A full report of the proceedings so far as they have hitherto extended will be found in our police columns.

The event of the week in the way of amusement has of course been the Regatta which has proved a decided success. The arrangements were in all respects satisfactory, and the P. & O. Company very kindly gave the *Behar* for the use of visitors invited to see the race. The stewards, judges, &c. have each exerted themselves to the utmost and merit the thanks of the community.

Subscribers at a distance will be glad to learn that we are enjoying beautifully clear bracing weather and that Hongkong just now is a most pleasant residence so far as the weather is concerned.

THE PLOT.

The discovery of the plot to which we alluded a few days since and of which details are given by one of our contemporaries this morning, will we trust result in a conviction on the part of the home authorities that the extra-legislation introduced by Sir Richard Macdonnell is a necessity imposed upon Government by existing circumstances. While fully admitting that the authorities have in this case acted with commendable prudence and foresight in taking steps to guard against possible danger, we do not think it probable that we shall behold "the speedy advent of 2,000 well armed desperadoes by the Ly-ee-moon, and of another body of 1,000 from over the hills to the south of the city, this last mentioned party to be provided with hammers, &c., &c., and follow in the train of the other two, and devote their time and energies solely to the work of plunder." Nor are we afraid that "on the approach of these bodies from the east and from the west, the unwashed of Hongkong will turn out and join in a general massacre of Europeans." Our chief apprehensions are respecting the danger to which Hongkong is exposed from the prevalence of such reports amongst the lower orders of Chinese, whom the belief of the approach of a piratical force to aid their nefarious schemes of plunder, is likely to embolden for acts of violence. The precautions now taken are we have reason to believe amply sufficient to guard against danger on the present occasion,—if such danger exist, but should the next few weeks pass over without disturbance there is a danger of our again being lulled into a sense of perfect security.

The proposals of this attempt to make a descent upon Hongkong seem at least to have a considerable number of correspondents in the colony. Their proposal to transport 3,000 men (not 4,000 as stated by our contemporary) through the harbour in face of the squadron now lying there is in itself ridiculous enough, but the plot has some elements of consistency in it; provision being made for the wounded and for compensation to their families. The discovery of the letter conveying all this precious intelligence from certain residents at Wangkong to a man of much influence (though occupying no official position) residing not far from the coast was brought about in a curious way. The messenger charged with its delivery thought fit to refresh himself with some sugar cane he found in a field, and suddenly found that the owner objected to his appropriating other people's property. He got a thrashing for the theft from the country people and was furthermore deprived of the interesting document in question. Another letter was subsequently discovered on his person urging him or some one else to return the first letter, as if it became known the writers would get into trouble. The person who had first seized the messenger declined to restore him his papers and subsequently carried or sent them to the Colonial authorities.

Several surmises have been made respecting the probabilities of the case as at present before the public. We may safely assert, that a letter has actually been placed in the hands of the authorities giving details of the supposed plot; but it appears to be uncertain whether it was not intended to be intercepted by the writers in order to cause apprehension to the authorities and induce them to concede rather more freedom of action to the pirates and robbers of the neighbourhood than the new ordinances are likely to permit. This is the view taken by our contemporary before alluded to, and seems feasible enough, while the way in which the affair came to light is quite susceptible of such an explanation. Others are of opinion that it is merely a malicious attempt to injure the parties mentioned, as the chief agents in the (in that case supposititious) scheme. While others, bearing in mind the constant threats of a descent upon the island which have from time to time come to public knowledge, are inclined to give full credit to the scoundrels of the neighbourhood for actually entertaining the designs attributed to them, which are nothing

less than the massacre of all the Europeans on the island and at a given signal the firing of the foreign houses. It may be well to add, however, that the authorities seem to be of opinion that the scheme (if ever it existed) has been abandoned by its projectors though it is stated on native authority that they have only kindly consented to put off its execution until the new year.

There may after all be nothing in all this and very possibly is not, but the mere report of such an intention is not calculated to repress the excesses of the rowdy portion of the natives. With them such an idea would be exceedingly popular, and it is not impossible that they may act upon their own responsibility. In any case the existence of such rumours will, we trust, put a decided stop to the idea entertained of garrisoning Hongkong with a force composed of native Chinese, into which the greatest scoundrels in the island might find their way, despite all precautions to the contrary. It has long been a pet scheme with those who imagine that not only does the leopard change his spots but the Chinese native under a few years of "beneficent" British rule has become changed from that of the most faithless, and when excited, demagogical of semi-barbarians into a respectable member of society fully qualified for having entrusted to his care the lives and property of Europeans.

In view of the possibility of future disturbances, and in consideration of the numerous fires which, under any circumstances, are likely to occur in the Chinese quarter of the town every winter—would it not be a wise measure to station a military guard near the junction of the native and European portions of the town? As Victoria extends westward the need of a few soldiers within call will rather increase than diminish, and a riot might reach a dangerous point before the military could be brought up. The Police are hardly fitted to take the place of well drilled soldiers and their duties moreover are rather to act as individuals than in a body.

MISSIONS AT FOOCHEW.

A very interesting controversy has been going on in the columns of the *Foochow A.vertiser* between certain writers who under the signatures of "An admirer of Protestant Missions" and "An admirer of Roman Missions" discuss the relative merit of their respective systems; and apropos of the subject a leading article in the *North China Daily News* alludes to the Bapstian ceremony as practised by the Roman Catholic priests in somewhat severe terms. We agree neither with the defence of the Catholics set up by the correspondent of the *Foochow paper*, the sweeping strictures made upon them by his antagonist or the tone assumed by our Shanghai contemporary in discussing their merits. But there are paragraphs in each deserving of some attention on the part of those who believe that our future interests in China, will be powerfully affected by the influence which may be brought to bear upon the natives by Christianity and civilization.

The letter of the "Admirer of Roman Missions" is a long and well written defence in their favor. But he assumes a great too much in the following paragraph in which the writer says that had his opponent cast a glance over the world, "He would have seen Romanism and its Missions everywhere, full of life and hope and energy, admired even by Protestants of sound judgement, who cannot fail to discern that God is with the Catholic Missionaries, blesses their holy work and bestows upon them spiritual comforts in the midst of great privations." It is an undoubted fact that many Protestants do admire the working of the Roman Catholic Missions, but we are quite justified in asserting that they do so from a recognition of the effective organization of the missionary propaganda and the personal acquirements and zeal of its members. Mahomedanism is still in a flourishing state, but we do not recognize that "God is with" the Mahomedans from the fact that such is the case. "Mormonism is flourishing both in its religious and material aspects but still more emphatically do we not recognize the fact that "God is with" the disciples of Joe Smith.

While thus dissenting from the apologist of the Catholics we cannot believe that the hostility shown to their efforts by the writers we have mentioned is likely to commend itself to the thoughtful portion of the Protestant community. The Roman Catholic Missions are undoubtedly doing good, and we state this while fully believing that not one in ten of the so called "converts" is a Christian in the common acceptance of the term. Outwardly they may be so—doubtless must be so to remain amongst the flock, but we have small belief in the existence of any religious conviction in the minds of the greater number of those nominally considered as native Christians. But the good which is effected is this—that Christianity is no longer to the convert a profession to be treated with derision and persecution. It will take many generations to produce results at all worthy of the means employed, but the Roman Catholic Missionaries are at least driving in the thin end of the wedge. Their Protestant brethren on the contrary assert that their own converts are real, and not nominal, Christians. I expect so—but they ignore the fact that more good may eventually be done to the natives generally by inducing a large number to enrol themselves as Christians, than by the real conversion of half a dozen coolies who often become objects of contempt and aversion to their neighbours. We believe that both sects are working conscientiously for a good end, but in its bearings on the eventual civilization of China must confess that we prefer the system pursued by the Roman Catholic Clergy to that advocated by those of our own faith.

THE AVON CASE.
We learn that the charge preferred against the Captain of the *Avon* is likely to be withdrawn. After the striking exhibition of humanity or prudence evinced by him we cannot but think it highly proper that such a step should be taken. But there are still one or two questions which must naturally arise in connexion with the vessel which we should like to hear answered. By the Captain's own admission there were "kidnapped" coolies on board. For this of course he, personally, is not responsible, but how comes it that under the "new and improved regime" at Macao such an event is possible? We thought that Macao had turned over a new leaf altogether, and that kidnapping was quite put a stop to. Who were the people that shipped the kidnapped coolies? Who were the officials that certified as to everything being "quite correct"; or if they did not so certify, who were the officials who neglected to perform their duty? Our readers will perceive by the police reports in another column that nearly every one connected with the proceedings admits that some kidnapped coolies were on board. As the names of the parties employed will probably transpire in the next report furnished of the proceedings, we shall then learn who are the individuals engaged in the "dirty" business of kidnapping coolies, and we shall feel particular pleasure in publishing a second expose of the disreputable and dishonest means employed by such scoundrels to entice natives into the hands of "Emigration agents." We notice by the bye that some of these coolies were stated in Court to have been kidnapped in Hongkong—a fact that being "found" we have carefully "made a note of" for the benefit, (as the auction notices say) of those concerned.

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Our contemporaries in noticing a recent resolution of the Chamber of Commerce that the results of its meetings be in future communicated to the papers for publication, have both pointed out the advisability of making those meetings entirely public by admitting reporters for the press. While concurring in the general tenor of their remarks as to the additional weight which would be given to the opinions and acts of the Chamber by increased publicity, they seem to us rather too sweeping in their demands. One of the objections urged against the "unreserved" publicity which our contemporaries advocate is that in many cases subjects are discussed which involve a statement on the part of the members of matters immediately affecting their personal interests or those of their neighbours, and that although willing to place such information as they possess at the disposal of the Chamber to enable it to form conclusions, are by no means disposed to enter into personal detail with the community at large. An other and valid objection is that many are able to discuss conversationally upon a subject who would figure but badly as public speakers, and hence the admission of reporters would rather tend to hamper their efforts to aid the general business of the Chamber. Many other objections entitled to consideration present themselves against an unreserved publicity of all that transpires within the board room of the Chamber; and we can hardly expect from the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce greater facilities to the public and the press than are accorded by sister institutions at home and in other parts of the world.

As a modification of the view held by our contemporaries we would rather suggest that the practice of the Hongkong Chamber be assimilated to that of similar bodies at home and wherever they exist in other British Colonies. By these, two descriptions of meetings are held at fixed dates—"committee meetings and General meetings;" the former laying before the latter results arrived at by private consultation amongst the members, and the latter being open to all members who choose to attend. Thus any measures proposed by the active members of the Chamber in committee are presented to the others under circumstances which admit of proper review and discussion.

Believing as we do that the tone taken on public questions by the Hongkong Chamber is likely to materially influence our future commercial transactions with China, we are anxious that it should afford all reasonable public information of its proceedings, which can best be effected by the admission of reporters for the Press at ordinary general meetings of the members.

THE TELEGRAPH.

One of our contemporaries in speaking of the telegraph, which Dr. Macgowan proposes to carry from Canton to Hongkong, asks "why does he not take it along the bed of the river hence to Canton, instead of by land through a wild and troubled district, where for hundreds of years, the authority of the Mandarins has been doubtful, and where contending villages indulge in daily slaughters one upon the other?" This question is not hard to answer. The reasons why a submarine line is not adopted are—firstly, that it would cost just three times the expense of a wire carried overland;—secondly, the chances of damage are almost greater if laid under water than if carried through a disturbed district; as in addition to the probability of its being accidentally fouled by some of the many hundred junks, which anchor in the shallow embouchure of the Pearl river, any vindictive damage could be inflicted with little trouble, and with almost a certainty of escaping detection.

From what we have very recently learned of the disposition of the inhabitants of the Sanon district, there seems to be less cause for apprehension of danger from their hostility than our contemporary entertains, and than we ourselves at first

imagined to exist. A missionary gentleman who is thoroughly well acquainted with the district informs us that provided the bona fide assistance of the local mandarins be obtained the people are not likely to offer any opposition; but he lays much stress upon the necessity of conciliating the official "classes." He is inclined to think that a more formidable obstacle will be found in the physical aspects of the country than in the hostility of the people—always provided that their superiors are induced to influence them in favor of the scheme—and that the expense of planting telegraphic posts across the lofty summits of the Sanon hills will be so great as to prevent any profit being derived from the undertaking for very many years. We fear that in spite of the expense the only feasible plan is to commence in the way we have before suggested—to lay down a submarine wire between Hongkong and Shanghai. The Chinese officials at both ends of the route would soon learn its use and importance, Canton being thus brought within 60 hours—the time occupied in the passage to Hongkong—of Shanghai. Even this would be an immense gain in the eyes of the native officials and merchants, and would possess the additional recommendation of costing them nothing except the actual expense of a message. This would materially conduce to the good opinion of the scheme, "I cannot be fashed" being but a somewhat free translation of a well known Chinese phrase which native officials are particularly fond of using when pressed to take trouble.

THE NEW ORDINANCES.

The reply of Sir Richard Macdonnell to the Chinese Petitioners respecting the new Ordinances will probably have a beneficial effect upon the minds of the Chinese who are disposed to believe that they will suffer much more under their provisions than is probable or even possible. While thoroughly endorsing the general tone of His Excellency's Memorandum, we regret however to find that he has afforded no information as to the intentions of the Government respecting those small vessels which are in the habit of leaving and entering the harbour once or twice daily, an omission, which our both contemporaries have also pointed out in their articles of this morning. Like our contemporaries we cannot imagine it to be the intentions of His Excellency to put an entire stop to the petty traffic upon which we are all, more or less, dependant for our daily market supplies, though we differ from the *Daily Press* in its assumption of undue hardship being caused either by the license fee or the fact of the masters of market boats having to report themselves at the Harbour Masters office. The only undue hardship is the time of giving notice before departure, and it would seem both just and wise to extend to them the same facilities which are extended to steamers entering and leaving Consular ports. At each of these sailing vessels is under ordinary circumstances required to report her intention of sailing at least 24 hours before hand, but this rule is relaxed in favor of all vessels the masters of which at the time of reporting give notice of their intention to leave again immediately. Some similar rule might be adopted with respect to the small vessels to which we allude, and on which the enforcement of the "18 hours" rule would in effect act as a deprivation of the means of livelihood.

We do not for a moment believe that such a measure is anticipated by the Government, but it would be well to quiet the apprehensions of the Chinese on this subject. They seem disposed to bring their objections forward in a quiet and peaceful way, and indulge in no rhodomontade about the "frightful results" of coercive legislation. They simply point out in this case—not the hardship which would be entailed by a compliance with the ordinance in the case of provision boats—but the absolute impossibility of a vessel making two trips per day of six hours each, and in both cases giving 18 hours notice of departure. The last paragraph but one of His Excellency's reply induces the belief that he fully intends to make allowance for cases of this sort, but he has not said so specifically. Hence there is great likelihood of misunderstanding taking place amongst so timid a race as the honest portion of the Chinese trading community.

In other respects there is little that can be cavilled at in His Excellency's memorandum. Legislation such as this under discussion is doubtless exceptional, but is forced upon the government by the Chinese themselves, and until we can succeed in convincing them that to conceal a knowledge of crime on the part of others, to aid or shelter criminals, or to refuse assistance to the law when required by lawful authority are, in themselves, criminal acts, so long will extraordinary legislation be necessary to grapple with the evils which neglect has allowed to flourish unchecked.

From all parts of France come doleful stories of the inundations, which appear, however, to be worse in Paris than in other parts of the country. There the Seine has risen to an unwonted height, and is doing enormous mischief. The water of the Pont de l'Alma is almost on a level with the keystone of the arches, while the towing path of the Pont de Jena to Auteuil is submerged to the depth of some feet. On the Loire less damage has been done, but circulation has been interrupted for some days past, and cannot yet be re-established. The director of the post office has consequently been compelled to issue a circular explaining the delay which had taken place in the delivery of the mails. A subscription list has been opened for the benefit of the sufferers, at the head of which the Emperor figures for 100,000 francs, while against the names of the Empress and the Prince Imperial are the respective sums of 25,000 francs and 10,000 francs.

SAIGON.
A GENTLEMAN, recently been kind enough to following particulars. Saigon is an unhealthy place, and liver complaints considerable extent. stroke are of frequent occurrence, and probably 30,000, of majority are natives, Catholics. The Chinese, too, but they are strict to the north of the Straits settle few from this, Canton the French took 10,000 Europeans according to arrive regiments, forming and commerce are large extent in the owing to their long marriages with the themselves are lazy and not to be compared and intelligent Chinese are the go between natives and Europeans the fact of the Celebes monopolized commerce of Cochinchina less difficult in these circumstances to come in trade, but where is a purely military Government, it is not certain as would be engaged in commerce, on the question. The having to a certain over Europeans, go ney, while the latter expenses and not language, meet with endeavours to acquire. Add to this the pur which we have before been surprising that Saigon has thus far been the case for China to be hoped that with her conquests Government, instead will be established state of things exist a Colony proclaiming reign nations admit will doubtless prosper. The country around in every respect, tobacco, indigo, and articles, might be larger quantities than with the requisite of find its way to be properly developed. Sociability there sent, as the French no intercourse at all and traders, and different nationalities preventive to any

THE CHINESE.

THE Chinese merchant sees of land residing just, presented to peaceful petition, state them to be the peaceful and abolition of the local Chinese highly imposed His Excellency in expedient to sue it extends to such impossible from w due to verbatim loving abstract connection with the leacy the Government of the views set forth. The petition comes the petitioners being the unanswerable His Excellency's reply sent by them or last, have considered further enquiries Ordinances lately ment, and they are Excellency that t up under a misapp fog and intent of from imperfect in complete version of in one of the local Stating that that of a gentleman the colloquial sections of the Ordinances: "Your petitioners that, with some few petitioners will pre bring under Your that so far from t your petitioners pre tructive and incoor satisfied, that, if carried out, the p by them, and the p dents rendered ass Of the "excepti tioners would dire tion, the first Coasts Ordinances ers find that in in favour of license sion junks, or as t entering and lea point out the diff trading junks; that constantly; enteri in many cases daily of the Colony are these junks for the visions. They su ports in the nei Hongkong, the number of trips pe

ist. A missionary gentle-
thoroughly well acquainted
information as that provided
assistance of the local man-
the people are not like-
position; but he lays much
a necessity of conciliating
ness. He is inclined to
formidable obstacle will
the physical aspects of the
the hostility of the people
ided that their superiors
influence them in favor of
that the expense of
aphic posts across the lofty
Sanon hills will be so
vent any profit being de-
undertaking for very many
ear that in spite of the ex-
feasible plan is to commence
have before suggested—to
submarine wire between
Shanghai. The Chinese
ends of the route would
and importance, Canton
light within 60 hours—the
passage to Hongkong—of
in this would be an immense
s of the native officials and
would possess the additional
of costing them nothing
al expense of a message,
materially conduce to their
of the scheme, "I cannot be
but a somewhat free trans-
all known Chinese phrase
officials are particularly fond
pressed to take trouble.

NEW ORDINANCES.

Sir Richard MacDonnell to
petitioners respecting the new
it probably have a benefi-
in the minds of the Chinese
to believe that they will
more under their provisions
le or even possible. While
advising the general tone
ency's Memorandum, we re-
to find that he has afforded
as to the intentions of the
respecting those small vessels
the habit of leaving and en-
bour once or twice daily,
n, which our both com-
have also pointed out in
of this morning. Like our
we cannot imagine it to be
of His Excellency to put
to the petty traffic upon
all, more or less, dependent
market supplies, though we
daily press in its assump-
shipment being caused either
or the fact of the masters
laying to report themselves
r Masters office. The only
is the time of giving
departure, and it would seem
wise, to extend to them the
which are extended to steam-
cleaving Consular ports. At
sailing vessel is under ordi-
nances required to report her
sailing at least 24 hours be-
this rule is relaxed in
vessels the masters of which
are given notice of their in-
again immediately. Some
might be adopted with re-
small vessels to which we
n "which the enforcement of
ts" rule would in effect ac-
tion of the means of liveli-

for a moment believe that
re is anticipated by the Gov-
it would be well to quiet
otions of the Chinese on this
y seem disposed to bring
ons forward in a quiet and
and indulge in no rhodo-
at the "frightful results" of
elation. They simply point
case—not the hardship which
talled by a compliance with
in the case of provision boats
ulps per diem of six hours each,
giving 18 hours notice of
the last paragraph but one of
y reply induces the belief that
as to make allowance for cases
but he has not said so specifi-
there is great likelihood of
iding taking place, amongst
as the honest portion of
trading community.

There is a little that can
in His Excellency's memo-
islation such as this under
s doubtless exceptional, but
on the government by the
selves, and until we can suc-
cinating them that to conceal a
of crime on the part of others,
er criminals, or to refuse assist-
w when required by lawful au-
thorities, criminal acts,
extraordinary legislation be-
grapple with the evils which
allowed solong to flourish un-

parts of France come doleful
inundations, which appear,
worse in Paris than in other
country. There the Seine has
unwonted height, and is doing
chiefs. The water of the Pert
a almost on a level with the
the arches, while the towing
Pont de Jena to Auteuil is sub-
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errupted for some days past,
yet be re-established. The
post office has consequently
to issue a circular explain-
which had taken place in the
the mails. A subscription list
opened for the benefit of the
the head of which the Emperor
90,000 francs, while against the
the Empress and the Prince Im-
the sums of 25,000 francs and

SAIGON.

A GENTLEMAN, recently from Saigon, has
been kind enough to favour us with the
following particulars regarding that port:
Saigon is an uncommonly hot, and not
over healthy place. Fever, dysentery,
and liver complaints prevail there to a
considerable extent, and cases of sun-
stroke are of frequent occurrence. The
population amounts in round numbers to
probably 30,000, of whom, of course, the
majority are natives, most of them Roman
Catholics. The Chinese are very nume-
rous too, but they are as a rule from dis-
tricts to the north of Hongkong, or else
from the Straits settlements, comparatively
few from this, Canton or Macao. Includ-
ing the French troops there may be about
10,000 Europeans, which number varies
according to arrival or departure of French
regiments, forming the garrison. Trade
and commerce are for the present to a
large extent in the hands of the Chinese,
owing to their long intercourse and inter-
marriages with the natives. The latter
themselves are lazy and indolent to excess,
and not to be compared with the active
and intelligent Chinese—who invariably
are the go-betweens in transactions of na-
tives and Europeans. This accounts for
the fact of the Celestials having by de-
grees monopolized as it were the entire
commerce of Cochinchina. It is doubt-
less difficult in these countries under any
circumstances to compete with Chinese
in trade, but where, as in Saigon, there
is a purely military, instead of a civil
Government, it is not likely that such at-
tention as would facilitate matters to a
certain extent for European Colonists en-
gaged in commerce, will be bestowed upon
the question. The Chinese, therefore,
having to a certain extent the advantage
over Europeans, go ahead and make money,
while the latter, hampered by heavier
expenses and not acquainted with the
language, meet with more obstacles in their
endeavours to acquire an independence.
Add to this the purely military spirit to
which we have before alluded, and it cannot
be surprising that commercial results in
Saigon have thus far not resulted so fa-
vourably for Europeans as has probably
been the case for Chinamen. It is devoutly
to be hoped that when France has done
with her conquests in Cochinchina, a civil
Government, instead of a military one
will be established there, and that the
state of things existing will be abandoned,
a Colony proclaimed, and Consuls of for-
eign nations admitted, after which Saigon
will doubtless prosper.

The country around is fertile and rich
in every respect. Cotton, sugar, rice,
tobacco, indigo, and a variety of other
articles, might be produced in very much
larger quantities than is the case now, and
with the requisite capital that would then
find its way to that port, trade would
be properly developed.

Sociability there is scarcely any at pre-
sent, as the French military have little or
no intercourse at all with the merchants
and traders, and among the latter the dif-
ferent nationalities are unfortunately a
preventive to any nearer approach.

THE CHINESE AND THE ORDINANCES.

THE Chinese merchants, traders, and les-
sees of land residing in this Colony, have
just presented to His Excellency a res-
pectful petition, stating "what appears to
them to be the views entertained by all
the peaceable and well-disposed por-
tion of the local Chinese population on the
recent highly important enactments which
His Excellency in his wisdom has deemed
it expedient to put in force." The peti-
tion extends to such length that we find it
impossible from want of room to repro-
duce it verbatim this evening. The fol-
lowing abstract of it however, taken in
connection with the reply of His Excel-
lency the Governor, will give a clear idea
of the views set forth by the memorialists.

The petition commences by stating that
the petitioners being so much struck with
the unanswerable reasoning contained in
His Excellency's reply to the petition pre-
sented by them on the 5th of September last,
have considered it their duty to make
further enquiries as to the contents of the
Ordinances lately passed by the Govern-
ment, and they are bound to admit to His
Excellency that that petition was drawn
up under a misapprehension of the mean-
ing and intent of the Ordinances, arising
from imperfect interpretation and the in-
complete version of them which appeared
in one of the local Chinese newspapers.

Stating that they have sought the aid
of a gentleman thoroughly acquainted with
the colloquial to explain the obscure
sections of the Ordinances, the text con-
tinues:

"Your petitioners are now free to admit,
that, with some few exceptions which your
petitioners will presently take the liberty
to bring under Your Excellency's notice,
that so far from the Ordinances being as
your petitioners previously stated, 'ob-
structive and inconvenient,' they are fully
satisfied, that if properly and judiciously
carried out, the Colony must be benefited
by them, and the position of Chinese resi-
dents rendered safer and healthier."

Of the "exceptions" to which the pe-
tioners would direct His Excellency's at-
tention, the first is "the Harbour and
Coasts Ordinance 1866." The peti-
tioners find that in this no distinction is made
in favour of licensing passenger or provi-
sion junks, or as to their treatment when
entering and leaving the harbour. They
point out the difference between these and
trading junks; that they are in the habit of
constantly entering and leaving the port,
in many cases daily, and that the markets
of the Colony are entirely dependant on
these junks for their daily supplies of pro-
visions. They subjoin a list of the small
ports in the neighbourhood trading with
Hongkong, the number of junks engaged,
number of trips per month, and duration of

stay in the Colony, and point out that a
passenger's junk from Nantao for instance
would have to pay \$110 per annum for
the privilege of bringing supplies to the
Colony, while a junk plying between Kow-
loon city and the Colony would have to
pay fees amounting to \$293.75. Such an
impost is, in the opinion of the petitioners,
calculated to drive away a trade upon
which we are all almost wholly dependant
for the necessities of life; or at all events
to increase the cost of these necessities to
such an extent as to make it utterly im-
possible for the poorer classes to obtain
them.

"The petitioners then draw attention to
the fact that at present time even the lar-
gest of the licensed passenger or provi-
sion junks pay only 10 dollars per an-
num to the Government; and submit, that,
the payment of double that amount, as
laid down in the Ordinance, is, of itself,
a very high tax, and they believe it is as
much as this class of vessels can possibly
afford to pay out of their small profits,
and that the payment of other fees in addi-
tion will be absolutely impracticable, se-
pecially, as they have likewise to pay taxes
and fees to their own Government at the
ports to which they belong or from
which they sail.

The next paragraph throws a curious
light upon the exactions of the local man-
daries on the mainland. The petitioners
submit that the clause requiring that the
licence number of junks be painted in
black figures 20 inches in length, on a
white ground, on each bow—is very ob-
jectionable, as these figures being fixtures
would render junks liable to many exac-
tions from the officials of the Chinese
ports to which they belong, as they would
then be looked upon as foreign vessels,
and impediments and exactions of all kinds
would be felt by them at all the Chinese
ports to which they may have occasion to
resort. It is also stated that many of the
passenger or provision junks now trading
here take their departure from the Chi-
nese ports they belong to for some other
Chinese ports, they not daring to clear for
Hongkong, as it would subject them to
greater exactions than they already pay,
and in some cases they would be pre-
vented from leaving the port altogether.

The next "exception" is to the num-
ber of hours (18) fixed for giving notice of
intended departure. This they point out,
in the case of vessels leaving and re-
turning to port daily, would be imprac-
ticable. The amount of security required
for vessels (\$1,500) is stated to be twice
the value of the very best junks, and the
difficulty of obtaining this security will
prevent many, if not all, of the smaller
junks from continuing their employment.

The petitioners admit the propriety of the
scale of fees as regards licensed trading
or cargo junks, as well as in the case of
unlicensed junks without regard to the
frequency of their visits. They do not dis-
cover any clause in the ordinance exempting
fishing boats from the port fees, but
cannot believe it to be the intention of the
Government to exact from them the fees
mentioned. The result would be the im-
mediate departure of all fishing boats from
the Colony for neighbouring ports.

The next paragraph comments on the hard-
ship entailed upon the owner of a junk
by Section XIX and XX of the Ordinance,
as should the Captain lie employs
misbehave, the junk is liable to forfeiture.
An innocent man may thus be punished
for the neglect or misconduct "of a person
who may possibly be even unknown to him!"
The petitioners remonstrate strongly
against this provision of the Ordinance and
add that they feel satisfied that the facts
they thus point out will suffice to convince
His Excellency that some modification is
required in order to render the working of
this Ordinance unoppressive to the honest
and innocent trader.

Having thus stated their objection to the
Harbour and Coast Ordinance the peti-
tioners proceed to deal with "the Victoria
Registration Ordinance 1866," which
"though well adapted to secure the health,
comfort, and security of the colonists, is in
some respects open to objections," which
objections they proceed to state. The first
is, that the landlord of a house, one floor
of which is perhaps let to some 10 persons,
is often unaware of the actual personality
of his lodgers. They are constantly chang-
ing, and to require him to report these
changes would in addition to being ex-
tremely difficult needlessly occupy much
of the "householder's" time and that of
the officers of the Registrar General's de-
partment. The difficulty would be greater
in the case of a landlord not living on the
premises. He frequently finds, on his
monthly visit to collect the rent, that new
occupants have taken the place of those
he last saw, by arrangement between them.
This is a matter of daily occurrence in the
house occupied by the poorer classes, and
to require a report in such cases, punishing
neglect by a fine, would be to entail great
hardship and vexation upon the land-
lord.

The chief objection is, however, against
Section XVIII, by which if the offender,
being only a casual resident, cannot be
found, the amount of the absent offender's
fine is made payable by the innocent
landlord, he being under such circum-
stances the "householder." The peti-
tioners conceive this enactment to be unrea-
sonably hard on an innocent man. They
have always heard it stated that it is a
common axiom amongst the British people
that it were better that nine guilty persons
should escape than that one innocent man
should be punished, and the above regula-
tion does not appear to them consistent with
the just principle involved in the above
good maxim. The remedy given by the
latter part of the Section to the landlord
would be utterly useless, as he would be
unable to recover the amount of such fine
from one who had already escaped from
justice, or, who if he were to return, it
would be necessary to sue for the amount
even if he were able to pay it.

Still more objectionable is said to be the
case where the guilty man being actually pre-
sent, and who upon conviction cannot or
will not, pay the fine inflicted on him is
allowed to go at large without any punish-
ment whatever, and the landlord who had
never heard anything of the offence being
committed, is called upon to pay the amount
of the fine! The petitioners beg to sub-
mit, that when this law becomes known in
the Colony it will amount to an inducement
to the lower classes to commit of-
fences under the Ordinance named, which
they may do with impunity, since whatever
may be the amount of the fine inflicted, all
they have to do is to express their inability
to pay it, in which case the Government
will call upon the landlord to do so. Be-
sides this the Petitioners fail to see why a
mortgagee in possession, who collects the
rents thereof to pay himself the interest on
the amount lent, should be deprived of the
same because some person living therein
may have committed an offence under certain
specified Ordinances. It would be impos-
sible for the landlord or mortgagee to
maintain such a supervision over the im-
mates of his houses as to prevent the com-
mission of any of these offences, and this
oppressive law, if carried out, will cause
the value of landed property to decrease
most materially, especially since land-
lords are now called upon to pay the po-
lice, Lighting and Water Rates for their
houses, whether occupied or not. The Pe-
tioners would respectfully beg to be in-
formed whether in the case of a person
who, having become a householder and
having under Section VII, reported the
same to the Registrar General and re-
ceived from that officer a certificate en-
dorsed under Section IX, should remove from
such house and subsequently become house-
holder of another tenement, will be called
upon to obtain and pay for a new registra-
tion certificate.

The petitioners cannot conclude without
alluding to the repugnance which Euro-
peans have always expressed against the
just system of the Chinese officials, in ar-
resting and punishing the member of a
man's family who may have committed an
offence, and who has escaped capture. They
beg to submit that the confiscation
of a junk and her cargo for an offence
committed by the master, (he not being
owner), and the infliction of fines upon
the landlords of houses whose tenants
may have committed offences under cer-
tain specified Ordinances, appear to be
open to the same objection.

As regards the licensing of money chang-
ers the petitioners would beg to point out
the fact that all grocer's shops may be
looked upon in the light of money chang-
ers' shops; because the nature of their
business is such that all the money taken
by them each day is in copper cash, which
is exchanged by them for silver, in order
to enable them to make remittances to the
mainland for purchasing fresh stock—this
practice is the more necessary since the
Hongkong copper cash being only current
in the Colony, the grocers cannot send
this coin for the purchase of their supplies.
The same may be said of retail prepared
opium dealers, and it would be a great
hardship that they should be compelled to
apply for licenses to enable them to change
their cash.

The petitioners then offer some remarks
regarding Sections IX and XX of the Or-
dinance with respect to the article of "con-
demnations." A large portion of Chinese
"condemns" if not looked upon by Europeans,
as actually "tainted," "adulterated" or
"unwholesome," is certainly considered
"noxious;" this is a well known fact, and
one commonly talked about by Europeans.
In all grocer's shops where these "condemns"
are sold by retail, and other places
where they are made, large quantities will
be found. These "condemns," though of-
fensive to the European taste and smell,
are not so to the Chinese, and are in daily
use amongst them, either as delicacies or
necessaries.—If informers are to be en-
titled to one half of the fine inflicted on per-
sons convicted of this offence, grocers and
others will be subjected to continual an-
noyance, if not hardship and oppression,
by having their houses searched upon in-
formation given by some person anxious to
make gain, if by chance a conviction could
be obtained, and further these "condemns"
are so "noxious" to Europeans, the
Shopkeeper may be fined for proffering
for sale an article said to be "noxious," but
to a Chinese, not only considered "whole-
some," but probably is in such state a ne-
cessary of life. The petitioners make no
objection whatever to the law taking its
course as regards "tainted," "adulterated,"
or "unwholesome" liquor, or meat, or provi-
sions, which is just and proper.

After the explanation contained in the
reply, which His Excellency condescended
to make to first petition, to the effect that
if native houses are kept clean and free
from smells that Chinese families will not
be troubled by visits from the Health Of-
ficer, they feel contented and satisfied that
no undue exercise of this power will be
made so as to cause alarm to their wives
and families.

With respect to Ordinance Number 9,
of 1866, the Petitioners have no remark
to make, except that as the object of it is
the prevention of the crime of piracy, and
the punishment of all persons in the Colo-
ny having any connection with pirates,
they fully concur in the great necessity
there exists for some severe law on the
subject, and they trust that the provisions
of this Ordinance will be attended with all
the success His Excellency hopes for from
them.

As regards the Stamp Act, the Petition-
ers think it would be better to leave the
matter in the hands of the European com-
munity, who are more able to judge as to
the merits or demerits of the requirements
of that Ordinance, and to represent the
same to His Excellency than they are;
although they still think the imposition of
Stamp, the time taken up thereby, and
the attention and particularly required to
avoid incurring fines, will materially in-

terfere with, fetter, retard and otherwise
injure, the trade of the Colony.

The petitioners trust that His Excel-
lency will also give his best and favorable
consideration to the observations and re-
marks on some of the most objectionable
portions of these Ordinances, which they
have endeavoured to express in this peti-
tion.

The petition is dated the 2nd of Nov-
ember, 1866.

MEMORANDUM.

Government House, Hongkong, 12th No-
vember, 1866.

I have perused carefully the memorial
addressed to me on the 2nd instant, by a
numerous and respectable body of Chinese
residents—drawing my attention to several
provisions in the recent Ordinances which
they suggest may cause unnecessary hard-
ship.

The memorialists overlook the fact that
this Government has been driven reluctantly
to adopt stringent measures for ascer-
taining the character of all native
vessels, by reason of the crimes and ro-
bberies of the countrymen of the memorial-
ists. There are higher considerations than
those of mere trade—and there are duties,
which this Government owes to civilisation
and humanity—which must be discharged,
whatever the hardships those duties entail on
residents.

It is, however, gratifying to feel that,
fortunately, there is nothing irreconcilable
between the plain duty of this Government,
and the profitable pursuit of their ordinary
occupations by memorialists, or by the native
shipping, which usually frequents this harbor.

There is in fact no adequate reason for
most of the apprehensions entertained by
the memorialists, who, although they have
made themselves better acquainted than at
first with the Ordinances affecting shipping
and registration, have still fallen into many
errors.

Thus they have overlooked the fact, that
vessels which make many trips are those
which naturally have most chances of profit
—and although in the example, which they
give, \$110 might be a large sum to pay for
one or two trips—or even for twenty voy-
ages, it cannot appear a very large sum in
the case of 120 voyages—during the course
of which so many thousands of Dollars must
have been employed in the transactions
connected with those voyages, as to render
the \$110 added by memorialists as a com-
paratively trifling expense—especially as it
could be paid in small sums not amounting
to one Dollar a trip.

I am nevertheless glad to have it in my
power to terminate the misgivings of me-
morialists on that point, by informing them
of the intention of the Government to treat
with special indulgence every vessel ob-
taining a general annual trading license, in
consideration of the guarantee afforded by
the bond required as a condition pre-
sented to obtain a license—for the gen-
eral good of the vessel and all connected
with her.

I therefore mean to use the power (Sec-
tion 28) of lowering the fees leviable under
the Ordinance, whenever I have reason to
be satisfied with the general conduct of the
owners and consignees of licensed vessels,
and when I am convinced that they are doing
their utmost to assist in carrying out the
law—and promoting the objects of recent
legislation.—In such cases I hope to di-
minish by one half or more, after the first
dozen trips, the amount of fees payable by
licensed junks.

In no case are these fees imposed through
desire of gain by this Government—but
simply because the audacious robberies
committed by Chinese vessels have made it
necessary to compel all vessels of that
nation visiting this harbor to report to,
and communicate frequently with, the
authorities. Now, if this has to be done
at all, the memorialists, as men of busi-
ness, must know that it cannot be accom-
plished so regularly by any other system
as by one of passes and clearances—because
the small payments required for money
granted to defer longer grappling
either received or paid, and thereby ensure
punctuality and exactitude in the conduct
and record of all proceedings.

Meantime, I would remind memorialists
that they are entirely mistaken in supposing
that a security of 1,500 dollars is required
to obtain a license. The Ordinance (Sec-
tion 26) only says that no bond for more
than 1,500 dollars shall be required as
security. Any person who there is no
ground for suspicion—may be accepted.
Thus even so low a security as \$20 or \$50
might possibly suffice in some cases.

Memorialists are also in error in think-
ing that any higher payment than \$5 for
an annual fishing license, or 50 cents for a
monthly license, is leviable from mere fish-
ing boats—whilst under Section XXIX a
license may be granted to every fishing
vessel, subject to such conditions and con-
sents as such privileges as the harbor master
with approval of Governor may arrange.
Under that Section therefore a means is
afforded—when the Ordinance is in opera-
tion—of remedying every real hardship
that may be proved.

As for the penalties finally falling on the
vessel and cargo guilty of infringing the law
that is not an undue hardship, because it
is easy to obey the law—if the intentions of
the owners and master of a vessel be honest.
There is also an appeal always to the Go-
vernment, and it is so improbable that an Of-
ficer of the British Government would exact
a penalty harshly or unjustly, that the
memorialists cannot be really alarmed at
the risk which any honest trader incurs
through that provision. If they still are
apprehensive they had better use addition-
al precautions when inquiring into the char-
acter of the masters and owners of the ves-
sel, subject to such conditions and con-
sents as such privileges as the harbor master
with approval of Governor may arrange.

Under that Section therefore a means is
afforded—when the Ordinance is in opera-
tion—of remedying every real hardship
that may be proved.

As for the penalties finally falling on the
vessel and cargo guilty of infringing the law
that is not an undue hardship, because it
is easy to obey the law—if the intentions of
the owners and master of a vessel be honest.
There is also an appeal always to the Go-
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a penalty harshly or unjustly, that the
memorialists cannot be really alarmed at
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Under that Section therefore a means is
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that may be proved.

if he cannot give complete information
about each monthly tenant, he can at least
state all he knows, and nothing more is re-
quired from him. If there be a difficulty
in doing this, it is a difficulty which he
must endeavour to overcome.

Memorialists also seek to convey an im-
pression that the Ordinance by imposing
eventually on the Householder the onus of
paying the fines of parties residing in his
house when guilty of a certain class of of-
fences, leaves him no remedy—whereas Sec-
tion XVII expressly enables him to recover
such fines from the real offenders. I dis-
agree with the memorialists as to the hard-
ship of this legislation. It is partly bor-
rowed from the spirit of many Chinese
penal laws, and partly from the principle
of English law, which income cases throw
on Counties and Districts the cost of dam-
ages to personal property and unusual
charges for police occasioned by the mis-
conduct of individuals within such Counties
or Districts. Thus it imposes on each
householder or his agent merely the duty
of seeing that his tenants yield obedience
to certain laws of the country which shel-
ters and protects them. He can do this
much better than any paid officers of the
Executive, and if he does his best to assist
the Government in carrying out the law, he
may rely on that the law will not deal
harshly with him.

It is moreover not true that the mere
impossibility of paying a fine will tempt
any, who can shift its payment on others,
to violate the law—because it is provided
that parties offending against the Ordinance
shall not merely be liable to fines, but
shall also, in default of payment, be liable
to imprisonment with hard labor.

Further, the arrest of a man's family in
China will endanger the guilty member
is not a parallel case with the householder's
payment in the first instance of a fine by
an absconding tenant—because whilst a
man's family can have no control over his
actions, and may be a thousand miles away
when he commits some offence—the house-
holder has from the first a general power of
selecting and removing his tenants, and
can at least endeavor, either personally
or through his agents, to have his houses
conducted in accordance with the require-
ments of the Law;—whilst he has opportu-
nities through himself or his agent of ascer-
taining the probable character of his ten-
ants. The British law therefore, unlike
the Chinese, only expects him to do what
he has opportunity and means of doing.

Finally, when we refer to the offences for
which householders are to be held respon-
sible, all appearance of unreason-
able exaction as to the duty of house-
holders. Those Ordinances, Nos. 11 and 14
of 1844, No. 12 of 1857, and No. 7 of
1865, define the offences for which house-
holders will in future be ultimately respon-
sible, if committed on their premises.
Those offences consist in illegal sales of
spirits, prostitution and gambling. Every
householder, can if he chooses prevent all
those offences on his premises, and I hope
that all respectable Chinese residents will
earnestly support an enactment, which is
intended to check a guilty privity as well as
culpable negligence on the part of house-
holders.

As there is no intention of declaring gro-
cers and opium dealers, as such, to be
money changers within the meaning of the
Ordinance, and as the usual Chinese "con-
demns" alluded to by memorialists will
not be condemned as unwholesome food, it
is unnecessary for me to add any obser-
vations in reply to the mistaken views of
memorialists on those subjects, who, I have
no doubt, will be glad to learn that they
have in so many points overrated the prob-
able obstruction to business which the
recent Ordinances may cause.

Their observations on the Piracy Court
Ordinance, and the Stamp Ordinance, re-
quire no comment.

In conclusion, I call special attention
to the fact that the peculiar habits of the
Chinese themselves, and the crimes of
their countrymen have necessitated the re-
cent legislation. I cannot therefore say
that I regret, as I would otherwise have
done, the additional duties now unavoid-
ably cast on Chinese residents. It clearly
is necessary to defer longer grappling
with the difficult questions raised by piracy
on the one hand, and the notoriously unclean
condition of a part of this town on the other.

I shall however always endeavor to render
the working of necessary laws as little bur-
densome as possible. Nothing will more
assist me in doing so, than the aid, which
the respectable Chinese can themselves afford
by looking to their countrymen with a desire
to make the administration of law easy,
that in time the penalties and provisions
found most vexatious, may be relaxed or
altogether discontinued.

RICHARD GRAVES MACDONNELL,
Governor.

THE CHINA TRADERS' INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE REPORT OF THE
COMMITTEE TO THE FIRST ORDINARY
MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS, TO BE
HELD AT THE OFFICE OF THE GENERAL
AGENTS AT HONGKONG ON NOVEMBER
19TH, 1866.

The Committee have much satisfaction in
being able to meet the Shareholders with a
supposed one Company has been
attained in its first year of working, which
will show its satisfactory establishment, its
extensive business connection, and its un-
doubted prosperity.

The Company was registered under the
Company's Ordinance of 1865, on the 12th
October 1865, its shares being all taken up,
and the first call of \$1090 per share having
been fully paid up. The amount of Premiums
collected in Hongkong and China, from the
1st of November 1865 to the 21st of October
1866, and the amount collected at the for-
eign Agencies, within that period, of which
the General Agents have received advice,
after deducting all sums paid as bonus and
commissions, and adding interest, amounts

he had been told by a friend that bad dollars could be bought at that shop. He has remained in his house since Tuesday last. The first prisoner was sitting behind a counter, in the inner part of the shop. Witness cannot identify the other five prisoners.

His Worship remanded the case until Tuesday next, binding the witness over in two sureties of \$100 each to appear on that day.

THE COINERS.

The Tung Mun law gang were again brought up on remand.

Lee Ah soy being declared states he is a servant employed by Constable No. 22. Witness knows all the prisoners. He saw them in the shop four days ago. Witness's object in going there was to buy bad dollars. Witness saw all the prisoners in the shop except one. He gave a good dollar to the master of the shop, who has escaped, and he received six bad dollars in exchange. Witness identifies the six dollars in court. The prisoners were all engaged in shuffling dollars. Witness had previously received information that bad money could be purchased at the shop, but had never been there before. The master produced the dollars from a hole in the ground, which was covered over with a tile. The reason why witness did not appear here on Friday was because he had been threatened with ill-treatment if he gave further evidence against the prisoners. Lum Ah-seong accompanied witness to the door of the shop but he did not go in.

Prisoners asked some irrelevant question and were remanded until Tuesday next.

Monday, 19th November, 1866.

THE SEIZURE OF THE "Aeon."

John Warwick, Captain of the ship *Aeon*, appeared before the bench charged with unlawful detention of Chinese. His Worship asked him name. He at first declined giving it until his lawyer came, but did so on a repetition of the request. Mr Caldwell entered the court and said that Mr Pollard would appear for the defendant. His Worship asked defendant of what country are you? Defendant replied—I refuse to state until I see my lawyer. His Worship said he would allow some time for Mr Pollard's appearance. Mr Deane explained that the charge in this case would be preferred against the captain only, as the officers must be supposed to have acted under his instructions.

Mr Pollard was sent for by Mr Caldwell, the time named by His Worship for proceeding with the case being one o'clock. At that hour the learned counsel not having arrived, His Worship addressing prisoner said—John Warwick, do you refuse to give me your nationality?

Prisoner: Yes, sir.

His Worship: Very well, I cannot compel you to give it, if you think it will do you any injury.

Mr Pollard here entered, and His Worship explained to the learned counsel what had taken place. Mr Pollard made no remark, and the case proceeded.

Mr Deane deposed—I am acting superintendent of police. From information received by me at quarter to 8 on Saturday night I made a communication to the Governor. Yesterday, about half past one P.M. I went on board H.M.S. *Salamis*. She proceeded out of the harbour, to where the defendant's ship was lying. I went on board of her and saw some of the royal navy sailors there, soon afterwards the *Salamis* took her tow and anchored her off the Princess Charlotte. I went on board the ship again, and arrested the captain on a charge of falsely imprisoning certain Chinese in his vessel. At about 3 o'clock on that morning I found one Chinaman with these hand cuffs (produce) on his wrist. I took them off.

Mr Pollard—I do not want to ask any questions of the witness. If he has given the usual policeman's testimony, "from information I received," he would have saved time.

Francis Grant Suttie, commander of H.M.S. *Salamis* deposed—I received orders from the commander on Saturday evening.

Mr Pollard objected that it would be better if witness should state what he did, and never mind his orders.

Witness—I went to a place outside the Lamma pass, and saw a vessel at anchor. (Witness marked the spot on a map as nearly as possible.) I did not go on board her.

By Mr Pollard—I was invited to go on board after the hawser was cast off, but I did not go. It was the *Opussum* gun boat that was sent out.

It was stated in answer to the bench that the *Opussum* had left the harbour. Mr Pollard remarked that under the circumstances that was singular, for the evidence of the *Opussum*'s captain would in five minutes relieve the captain from his present position.

His Worship suggested that the captain of the *Opussum* might be subpoenaed.

Mr Pollard said it would save time, if he stated why he had appeared there. This vessel left Macao about six o'clock on Friday evening. About 9 o'clock the same evening, in consequence of something coming to the ears of the defendant, he went with the interpreter to the between decks, where the Chinese passengers were, and found that three, or five, or six of them, stated that they were there against their will. The vessel being Russian, and a head wind preventing it from returning to Macao, the statement for Hongkong, knowing that the agents and owners were here. The fact of his steering for this place showed that he did not fear to court investigation. He came to anchor one and a quarter mile within the waters of the colony, and sent a boat to request the agent's instructions. The agent visited the ship, and finding that these men had been kidnapped, and brought from Macao against their will, gave instructions to the master to proceed into Hongkong, and said that he would send a steamer to tow him round, but that if there was wind enough, he must get up anchor, and come in. The agent came in to get legal advice as to what he should do, to get the men out of the vessel; and he was going to Macao to consult with the charterers, when he saw a gunboat along side. It appeared that in the middle of the night, the gunboat went up and the captain was asked, what was the matter on board, and was there any row? The captain replied—"there is no row on board." He was asked what he was doing there. He shouted out that some of his men were not proper emigrants, and that he was going to Hongkong next morning. The gunboat stayed by her and afterward, the *Salamis* came round and stayed by her until daylight. In compliance with the request of the officer of the *Salamis*, the anchor was got up, but the vessel drifted away while the hawser was being got on board. She was, however, in tow, when the agent

went on board, and he cast the hawser off. This was the case, and the whole reward the master of the vessel gets in diving from his course and coming in here to land a few coolies who objected to go on, was that he was charged with an offence. His Worship, coming here was to consult with the agent and communicate with the Russian Consul. With the misconception on the part of the Naval authorities, he (the learned counsel) had nothing to do; the charge had arisen through an impetuous superintendent of police.

His Worship observed that the superintendent of police (who was seated at His Worship's side) objected to the word "impetuous."

Mr Pollard: If I can prove what I have said, considering there is a Russian consul here, the idea of taking the captain and the whole of the crew into custody, without the slightest inquiry, was a most impetuous proceeding.

His Worship: I do not think so. Mr Deane has very important duties to perform.

Mr Pollard: But he must perform them with discretion.

His Worship: He did so in this case. He found a man on board in chains.

Mr Pollard: He might do so on board many other vessels without incurring false imprisonment. But here is a vessel, placed in charge of the naval authorities, and every single soul of the crew brought on shore and placed in goal.

The Superintendent: That is not true. The second mate and four men were left on board.

Mr Pollard said he was instructed that the evidence to be produced would prove that, there being some people on board who were not proper emigrants, the captain was bringing the vessel in here in consequence, when he was taken in charge.

The Superintendent here said he desired to make a statement.

Mr Pollard: I am a counsel engaged in this case, and I object to Mr Deane being recognised in any other capacity than that of complainant.

His Worship expressed his opinion that it was Mr Deane's duty to board the ship under the circumstances, in British waters.

Mr Pollard: The prisoner does not deny that there were some men there against their will. Where is the act that he has done to bring before the Court? The bench will see the necessity of caution in this case.

This man in handcuffs was not in irons in the harbour, for making a disturbance with the jurisdiction, of Macao; and the bench cannot inquire into such imprisonment, under the Russian flag.

His Worship directed evidence to be called and a Chinaman, a strong healthy looking fellow, was placed in the box.

Mr Pollard: I object to evidence being taken as to anything done outside British waters.

His Worship: The offence may exist here although its inception was outside.

Mr Pollard: Suppose the man was brought here to be handed over to the proper authorities? The imprisonment may not have been false at Macao. I object to anything outside British waters.

His Worship directed the examination of witness to be proceeded with, and Son a Sik, being declared, said—I am a joss stick maker in the Shun district. I do not know the prisoner. I saw him on board the ship which came from Macao.

Mr Pollard: I went on board at Macao October 10th. I know those handcuffs, they were put on me by some foreigners on leaving Macao. I was released from them the night before last; I do not know by whom. The handcuffs were put on after the anchor was lifted, because I refused to go with the ship. I did not wish to go on the ship. Some Chinese invited me to go on board at Macao.

Mr Pollard: I ask no questions. I do not deny that this man and several others were on board.

His Worship: Assuming that this man's evidence is uncontradicted, that he was placed on board the ship at Macao, and sailed against his will, that was false imprisonment, which did not cease when the vessel came within the waters of the colony.

Mr Pollard suggested that the commander of the *Salamis* was as much in fault for towing the ship in.

His Worship replied that the commander might have thought the ship to be in distress.

Mr Pollard: If the prisoner had any idea that he had men in false imprisonment, why did he come in here? That man was placed in irons in Macao does not make false imprisonment here. He was a man who made a row at Macao, and he was put in irons there.

His Worship: You must prove why you put him in irons.

Kum-lo-Pat, another coolie from on board, was placed in the box. He declared—I do not know the prisoner. I came here in a ship. I saw prisoner on board. I was not put in irons. I have no charge against him.

Mr Pollard (to the witness): This is one of the superintendent's usual man's next.

Witness continued. Sometimes it was very hot when people were smoking in the hold; the prisoner would not let me go down to smoke after 8 in the evening.

His Worship—This man has signed the contract?

Mr Pollard:—Oh yes, and whether they have signed or not they may go. As I am instructed the master is to assist the agent, and the men are not satisfied to go on, and that is why he came here to see the Russian Consul; and as I have said, this is his reward.

In answer to the bench the witness said it was against his consent that he had gone on board.

Mr Pollard remarked that the investigation not being conducted as much as what it would have been before the Russian Consul. The learned counsel read an extract from the charter party to the effect that emigrants by the vessel were to be shipped without infringement of the Spanish, Portuguese, English, or Canton regulations; and the captain finding that he had men on board who did not answer to emigrants of that description, came in from Macao.

His Worship: Is the defendant willing to let the men go?

Mr Pollard: That is what he came here for, when he was dragged out of his ship. Why was he not summoned instead? His vessel was lying under the guns of the *Salamis*; where was the necessity for dragging him and his people out of the ship and putting them in goal?

His Worship: Mr Deane was acting under a sworn information.

Mr Pollard repeated that the defendant ought to have been summoned.

Another witness was called, and declared that he was a servant at Kowloon. He had been taken on board the ship at Ma-

cao against his will. Some Chinese took him there. He had not been ill-treated. He went down to the hold to drink and then got flogged.

Mr Pollard asked Captain Suttie to support him in the statement that Lieut. Mainwaring had said that the vessel had got up her anchor voluntarily.

Commander Suttie: Mainwaring told me that the captain told him, that he was going in. I went on to say that I had orders to take him in tow, to assist him. He agreed to that, he got up his anchor himself, and up to a certain point, I was assisting him as a friend in bringing in his ship. I had orders from the Governor to bring him in any how, but he did not know that that was under no menace. As far as I know, it was a purely voluntary thing on his part to come in.

Mr Pollard remarked that so far as the naval officers were concerned they had to do only with the ship's papers and flag, and nothing to do with the coolies.

Commander Suttie: I acted entirely under orders. The owner threw away the hawser from the ship, and then I began to suspect.

His Worship: You say there will be an investigation, Mr Pollard?

Mr Pollard: Well, there may be if the matter is restored to its original position. The Russian consul would have been applied to. They do not wish to detain the men.

His Worship: I have little doubt as to what the Captain intended to do as you suppose, but I have got three witnesses to swear that they were on board against their will, in a vessel within the waters of the colony. Can you give me any evidence to upset that?

Mr Pollard: The evidence of Mr Nolan is that they wanted to avoid their contract (as we understood).

The Attorney General, who was engaged in the Criminal Sessions court, here entered, and applied for a remand, and after some conversation remand was ordered until 11 A.M. on Wednesday, prisoner being liberated on his own recognizance in \$500.

Wednesday, 21st November, 1866.

THE ARREST OF THE "Aeon."

This enquiry having been adjourned until to-day, John Warwick, the Master of the suspected vessel appeared in answer to his summons in handcuffs. The Attorney General appeared on the part of the Crown, with the Crown Solicitor. Mr Pollard, O.C. instructed by Mr Caldwell, on behalf of the defendant, and Mr Barnard, instructed by Mr Sharp, represented the three coolies who gave evidence at the last examination before the Magistrate.

With regard to the action of the Superintendent of Police in the preliminary steps taken by the Police authorities, a necessary duty to state, that no interference took place in the matter until the report of duty on board a vessel within the waters of Hongkong, found its way to the Central Police Station.

The Attorney General in a few remarks wished it to be understood, that having read carefully the depositions taken by the Magistrate, at the first examination of the matter, was desirous of taking any further steps in the business, but from the evidence which had since been voluntarily given by six or seven of the coolies on board the suspected vessel, wherein they stated that they had been kidnapped (some it will hardly be believed in this colony), this Government or any other Government, *deus in hoc*, could not fold their arms and remain silent, after such revelations had been brought to their notice. The Attorney General repeated by third officer, it is our duty to state, that no interference took place in the matter until the report of duty on board a vessel within the waters of Hongkong, found its way to the Central Police Station.

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From the remarks of Mr Pollard it was gleaned that a document signed by the Master of Macao, certifying that all the coolies on board the *Aeon* had been examined, and that no complaint had been made at the time of his inspection was produced, but the court had no evidence to prove whether the examination was correct, or whether the coolies were in the vessel, or whether it was a certificate of general health of the cargo, or further whether it applied to any other general subject respecting their welfare. With regard to this matter Mr Pollard stated that the Portuguese official named by the Attorney General had promised to attend at the Court and give his evidence, although no guarantee could be given of his presence, but he was desirous of certifying to their own signatures in such dirty transactions.

With regard to the Russian flag under which the vessel cleared from Macao, some unavoidable mistakes have crept into the public reports, more especially about her papers. In reality no mystery existed, as on her first arrival in these waters her papers were deposited at the Russian Consulate where they remain, very properly awaiting a thorough scrutiny, which the public have no reason to believe will be otherwise than strict, more especially from the tenor of the last notice issued by the Representative of the Russian Government, at Peking.

The Magistrate, on hearing the feeling of the Attorney General that the only question now before the bench was with regard to the defendant's plea of not guilty, and being detained against their will, agreed with the learned gentleman that probably the most straightforward plan would be to wait for the arrival of the Portuguese official, and on his behalf adjourned the further hearing of the case until to-morrow at 12.

The statement of the learned counsel above will of course account for the story that he probably was of the *Salamis* boarding the *Aeon* when they were at sea, and that he was not supplied on enquiry with the ship's papers.

The *Ceylon Times* says:—"We are exceedingly sorry to learn that telegrams have been received in Colombo to the effect that the Head Office of the Asiatic Bank was unable to render any effectual assistance to the Branch in Bombay, and had been compelled to stop payment. The Colombo Branch, however, waits positive instructions from home before closing its doors. We are sure that the feeling of regret at this disaster will be universal throughout Ceylon."

The returns of local bank circulation for the month of September were Oriental, £17,164; Mercantile, £45,300; Asiatic, £28,875, so that if the latter has to close the "suspension" will not be very widely ruinous.

VICTORIA REGATTA CLUB.

The regatta proceedings on Tuesday, although a decided success so far as the boats actually engaged were concerned, did not seem to be appreciated to their full extent by those to whom the hospitality of the P. & O. Company's vessels had been extended. The *Behar*, had been well fitted up with a movable raised platform running round the inside of the Bulwarks so as to afford the ladies a chance of seeing all that could be seen and a first rate tiffin was provided by the Regatta committee, which was thoroughly enjoyed by those who partook of it, but by some accident the vessel was allowed to remain at right angles instead of broadside on to the course which materially interfered with the view obtainable of that portion of the course where the final "spurt" was generally put on by the winning boats.

A kedge had been laid out from the quarter but this precaution was, owing to the strong wind previously prevailing, almost useless.

His Excellency the Governor and Lady Macdonnell honoured the vessel with their presence coming on board with the visitors and remaining until a late hour. The band of the XXth Regiment was on board and played a selection of dance and operatic music which greatly added to the enjoyment of the day.

Those engaged in the races would have been better pleased if the visitors had shown a little interest in the events of the day, and given them a cheer or two, but the "first man to cry out" was not on board and each successive race was witnessed in silence contrasting curiously with the vociferation and cheers of those on board the lighters moored in shore, who evidently took the greatest interest in all that occurred. On board these latter vessels several sweepstakes were got up, the guests themselves having thoroughly enjoyed the enjoyment of the holiday.

We subjoin the results of the days races, as furnished in the official report.

FIRST DAY.

FIRST RACE.—For boats pulled by non-Commissioned Officers and men of any Regiment or Corps in Garrison.—Distance one mile.

St. Harris XXth Regt. Navy Once 1
St. Major Taylor. City of Devon 2
Capt. Pater. Aden 3

A well pulled race, won by three boats; lengths.

SECOND RACE.—For pair oars and two pair Sculls.—Prize the American Cup.—Distance one mile.

E. S. Woodin, Water Baby 7m. 20s. 1
C. D. Kerr, Dreadnought 7m. 57s. 2
G. C. Young, Rolly Perkins 3

A very good race; *Water Baby* took the inside billet. At starting, all pulled well together for about half the distance, when the *Baby* fell behind and the race then apparently lay between the other two. *Baby*, however, put on a spurt and won by nearly four lengths.

THIRD RACE.—For men-of-war gigs.—Distance one mile.

Salamis 5 hrs. 37s. 1
Albatross 6 hrs. 14s. 2
Salamis 6 hrs. 9m. 3

This race was contested by boats from the *Salamis*, *Albatross*, and *Albatross*. It lay between the two gigs of the *Salamis* and the *Albatross*'s boat, the former winning after a good pull.

FOURTH RACE.—For four oared Canton Cutters presented by the Directors of P. & O. Company.—Distance one and a half mile.

J. Macleod, Ariel 11m. 10s. 1
E. S. Woodin, Dragon Fly 11m. 24s. 2
E. Beart, Blue Bell 3

In this race *Blue Bell* would have taken the second place but caused pulling too soon; *Dragon Fly* therefore passed her and took second place. This was a very plucky contest and race throughout.

FIFTH RACE.—For merchants ship's boats. Distance one mile. Time for Oars.

Capt. Pater, *Albatross* 1
Capt. Blake, *Behar* 2

The *Behar*'s boat came in first but having to allow the second boat 36 seconds did not win the prize.

SIXTH RACE.—For single pairs.—Distance one mile.

C. D. Kerr, *Blond* 7m. 53s. 1
J. Macleod, Ariel 7m. 53s. 2
P. d'Almeida, Volund 9m. 3

Mr Kerr won this race in good style, his superior training being very evident. The oars pulled well keeping together for a great part of the way.

SEVENTH RACE.—For horse boats pulled by Chinese.—Distance one mile.

Lane Crawford & Co's. boat, 1
Talbot & Co., 2
Gilman & Co., 3

Mr Lane Crawford's boat came well to the front, after a race which during its first half seemed rather to incline to one of its opponents.

EIGHTH RACE.—For open boats, Chinese excepted.

Lane Crawford & Co's. boat, 1
Undine's cutter-boat, 2
Pvt. boats, 3

The boats in this race were well handled, but a good part of the course was right to the face of the sun so that but little could be seen of what was going on.

THE Regatta races on Wednesday were somewhat more interesting than those of previous day, and great excitement was manifested by the spectators on board the various cargo boats, &c. moored inside the line of the racing course.

Owing to the late hour at which the last race terminated, and the consequent hurry in making out the Official Report a mistake was made in noting the result of Races No. 4, and No. 6, which mistake has we observe been copied by our contemporaries the *Daily Press* and *Mercantile*.

In the first Mr Woodin's boat should be *Dragonfly* not *Magenta*, and in No. 6, Mr Hancock's *Water Lily* could not well be second, simply because she did not start for the race. Mr Beart's *Bluebell* was second boat, and Mr Woodin's *Dragonfly* third.

In the open sailing boat race on the first day one of the competing boats capsized and the gentleman sailing *Kob Roy* (also competing) immediately bore up to the wreck and rescued five men forming the crew.

We subjoin a full account of the day's sport, and congratulate the "rowing men" upon the general success of the meeting of 1866.

SECOND DAY.

FIRST RACE.—For Merchants ship's boats. Distance one mile.—Time for Oars.

Albatross's boat 6 Oars 1
Behar's "Pug" 4 Oars 2

Three boats started for this race—*Albatross*'s boat with six oars took the lead, and maintained it throughout, winning easily.

SECOND RACE.—For single pairs.—Prize the "Ladies Purse."

C. D. Kerr, *Blond* 9m. 15s. 1
P. Major, *Clara* 9m. 30s. 2

Although four boats were entered for this race, two only started. Mr Kerr's *Blond*, and Mr Major's *Clara*. This was a closely contested race throughout, both men sculling in very good form. At one time Mr Major's superior strength seemed to give him the advantage, and in spite of Mr Kerr's plucky endeavours his opponent drew slightly ahead, but here Mr Kerr's good watermanship stood him in good stead, and steering a better course giving all obstacles a wide berth, wrested the lead from Mr Major (who unfortunately fouled a rope attached to the flagpole), and went in past the flagpole an easy winner.

THIRD RACE.—For Men-of-War's Cutters. Distance one mile.—Time for Oars.

Leavis 8 Oars 1
Salamis 10 Oars 2
Opussum 10 Oars 3

Four boats started. This was a very well contested race and resulted in the *Leavis* 8 oars obtaining the victory; *Salamis* good second, all well up.

FOURTH RACE.—For four Oared Canton Cutters.—Distance one and a half mile.

E. Beart, *Blue Bell* 11m. 59s. 1
E. L. Woodin, *Dragon Fly* 12m. 4s. 2
R. Hancock, *Water Lily* 12m. 26s. 3

Five boats entered for this race, but the winner of the Director's Cup being excluded, four only started. After a short delay the stations were taken up; *Water Lily* inside, *Dragon Fly* No. 2, *Dragonfly* and *Blue Bell* outside, and the best start of the meeting was effected. All got away well, and the four boats raced side by side perfectly level for about a quarter of a mile, when *Blue Bell* began to draw ahead, and at the turning boat had a clear lead, *Water Lily* pressing her hard, *Dragon Fly* close up, *Dragonfly* slightly astern. Halfway up the straight, *Dragonfly* leading by about three lengths, *Water Lily* second, rowing splendidly, *Dragon Fly* doing well, all drawing away from *Talbot*. At the flagpole *Blue Bell* still maintained the lead by about three or four lengths; *Dragon Fly* here put on a magnificent spurt, and collared *Water Lily*, and in spite of the game struggle made by the Canton Crew *Dragon Fly* gradually drew ahead and came into second place, *Talbot* came three or four lengths astern of *Water Lily*. From this point the race was virtually over, as *Dragon Fly* could not succeed in drawing upon *Blue Bell* which went in an easy winner, *Dragon Fly* three lengths astern, *Water Lily* two lengths astern of *Dragon Fly*, *Talbot* an indifferent fourth.

FIFTH RACE.—For pair oars and two pair Sculls.—Distance one mile.

C. D. Kerr, *Dreadnought* 7m. 51s. 1
E. L. Woodin, *Water Baby* 7m. 52s. 2

These were three entries for this race, but *Dreadnought*, and *Water Baby*, only started. This was a capital race. Both got away well, and rowed strictly level for about a quarter of the distance, Kerr and Glennie steering a good course Major and Woodin steering a little wide, the wind setting strong off the Kowloon shore making it rather hard left hand work. Halfway up Kerr and Glennie drew slightly ahead, owing to their advantage in having more place, and consequently a straight course, but almost immediately after Major and Woodin raced up, and both boats were as level as at starting. It was the gamut struggle of the meeting, and the excitement amongst the spectators on board the various boats moored along the course was tremendous. Shouts of "Up with her Kerr" from the friends of the one who met with one in this race, and consequently having to be waited for—Upon the crews taking up their stations the wind and tide drove the boats all together, so that it was found impossible to start in a line with the starting boat, and therefore after a good deal of "backing" and "pulling up" the boats were ranged pretty level just ahead of the starting boat, and upon the firing of the gun a very fair start was effected. *Water Lily* had the inside place, and consequently a straight course, and *Dragonfly* second, *Bluebell* third, and *Talbot* outside. There was no great advantage in stations the course being perfectly straight, although the wind coming rather stiffly from the Kowloon shore setting all the boats off a little, might have given a very slight advantage to the outside boats. *Ariel*, got off first and went away in splendid style, the others drawing away at about the same rate, instant together. A good race ensued, *Ariel* leading slightly, *Dragonfly* about half a length astern, *Talbot* a quarter of a length astern of *Dragonfly*, and *Bluebell* a quarter of a length astern of *Talbot*. About a quarter of a mile up the course *Bluebell* drew on *Talbot* and *Dragonfly*, and they raced together for about fifty yards, when *Talbot* gradually fell off and became last, *Ariel* steadily drawing away and holding a lead of two clear lengths at the half mile. A splendid race was made between *Dragonfly* and *Bluebell* for second place, and it was not until nearing the flagpole that *Bluebell* succeeded in showing clear in front, *Talbot* three or four lengths astern of *Dragonfly*. After shaking off *Dragonfly*, *Bluebell* went away after *Ariel*, who was leading by about two or three lengths, but *Ariel* was too good, and eventually went

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